

Town of Moultonborough, NH:

2014 Recreation Needs Assessment and Planning Report

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Cover Photo:

Athletic fields on Playground Drive, Moultonborough, NH. All photos in this report are courtesy of Robert Barcelona and Nate Trauntvein.

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Introduction

The scope of this report focuses on the work of the planning and evaluation team from the University of New Hampshire in conducting a parks and recreation needs assessment for the Town of Moultonborough, NH during the Fall of 2014. The project team was lead by Dr. Bob Barcelona and Dr. Nate Trauntvein, with assistance from Dr. Bob Brookover from Clemson University and UNH graduate students in the Department of Recreation Management and Policy. Specifically, the purpose of this study was the following:

- 1. To examine the parks and recreation needs as identified by the residents and key stakeholders in the Town of Moultonborough;
- 2. To determine which parks and recreation needs expressed were deemed to be priorities for the Town of Moultonborough;
- 3. To develop a set of recommendations that would allow the Town of Moultonborough to meet the priorities that were identified throughout the study.

In addition to understanding the broad parks and recreation needs and priorities, the town was particularly concerned with whether there was a need for a new indoor recreation facility to be constructed in Moultonborough, and whether the construction of such a facility would be feasible given current and future need and demand, public support, and town resources. The team from UNH has expertise in community planning and parks and recreation administration, and team members have conducted similar community planning studies in New Hampshire and throughout the country.

The team's philosophy and approach in undertaking the study was one of "holding up a mirror" and reflecting back to the community what we heard during the data collection process. The results and recommendations presented in this report are a direct reflection of the data that was collected. While the team's expertise in parks and recreation planning played a role in the final recommendations and discussion, all recommendations were informed by the data gathered during an extensive research and public input process. The research and public input process included the following activities:

- 1. Background and information gathering related to existing parks and recreation resources in Moultonborough;
- 2. Recreation facility tours and observations for major indoor and outdoor recreation facilities;
- 3. Benchmarking recreation facility space and budget allocations with peer communities identified by the Town of Moultonborough;
- 4. Focus group and one-on-one meetings with recreation stakeholders and the public;
- 5. Large format public input session open to Moultonborough residents;
- 6. Town-wide online household survey, with paper copies available for those who could not or chose not to access the survey online.

All public input activities were designed to get broad citizen participation and input into the process. Planning meetings with the Recreation Study Work Group to discuss the methodology used for this project, including all decisions related to data collection procedures, were open to the

public for input, and public comments were considered and incorporated where feasible and consistent with the project's scope of work. Copies of study instruments, including the household survey, benchmarking survey, and public input session survey, are included in the Appendix of this report. Separate data files (.xls) of the Town-wide survey responses, as well as the public input session responses, have been delivered electronically to the Town Administrator.

Project Activities

The following sections provide the data analysis and interpretation for the research and public input activities of the project. Every effort was made to capture the key themes and ideas generated by each of the project activities. An integration of the key ideas and themes across project activities will be discussed in the "Recommendations" section.

1. Background and Information Gathering

The project team reviewed information provided by the Town Administrator that helped to provide historical, statistical, and demographic context for the report. In particular, the project team reviewed the Master Plan of 2008, including Chapter 7 (Public Facilities, Services, Utilities, and Recreation) and Appendix F (Recreation Strategy for 2008-2013); the Master Plan of 2014 Survey Data with a particular focus on data pertaining to recreation facilities; the 2011 Blue Ribbon Commission on Community Services and Facilities (BRC) Final Report; the 2010 Demographic Study Task Force; School Demographic Study and enrollment projections; and Recreation Department Reports for the Town Report, including trip tracking numbers and recreation program participation.

Demographic trends for Moultonborough show that the community is aging, with the median age of the town increasing from 46 to just over 50 years of age over the last decade. The year-round town population has decreased by about 10% since 2000. Moultonborough does have a sizable seasonal population, and the number of seasonal homes in the town appears to have increased since 2000 (Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2013). While there are many different estimates of seasonal population in Moultonborough, the 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan estimates that the seasonal population in Moultonborough is approximately 20,495 (Hazard Mitigation Plan Update).

Demographic analysis of Moultonborough School District enrollment has shown a steady decline over the past decade. Other studies have shown that while class sizes may be decreasing, student use of school facilities has remained the same or have increased. For example, the BRC noted in their study that athletic program offerings at Moultonborough Academy have grown significantly since the school's opening, and that "significant growth in middle school and freshman sports programs have consumed available time at the Moultonborough Central School gymnasium" (BRC Final Report, 2011). This has led to scheduling and programming pressure for the town's Recreation Department, as it has had limited access to suitable and safe gymnasium spaces for adult and youth recreation programs, limited practice time, inefficiencies in equipment storage and facility set-up, and late night schedules that are inappropriate for young children. All of these concerns were raised in the current (UNH) study by participants and other stakeholders of Moultonborough Recreation Department programs, and will be addressed throughout the report.

Discussion of new recreation facility development – particularly the development of a facility that would provide additional indoor gym space and space for senior activities - has been taking place since at least the early 2000's. For example, the Recreation Strategic Planning Task Force undertook a study in 2007 and recommended that a new indoor recreation facility be built to address the needs for indoor gym and community center space in Moultonborough. In 2008, voters rejected a warrant article that would have provided funds for an architect and engineering for the new community center by a vote of 56% (no) to 44% (yes). Another warrant article to provide a capital reserve fund of \$100,000 was approved by voters to start saving for proposed construction of a new indoor recreation facility in the future. On-going planning discussions for a new indoor recreation facility have continued since 2008. The 2011 Blue Ribbon Commission on Community Services and Facilities (BRC) concluded that, "the indoor gymnasium space available to the citizens of Moultonborough is insufficient to serve the needs of the community" (BRC Final Report, 2011). Following their review of existing town and school facilities, and public input related to current and future recreation needs and demand, the BRC recommended that, "the town pursue development of a facility that includes an indoor gymnasium, Recreation Department office, program and storage space that would be on existing school land or property adjacent to school facilities" (BRC Final Report, 2011). The Town currently owns property adjacent to Moultonborough Academy and is near the Moultonborough Central School which appears to be well suited for this recommendation (known as the "Adele Taylor Property").

Whether a new indoor recreation facility is a priority for town residents is an open question. There appears to be a need for increased access to indoor gym space for adult and youth recreation programs, and existing facilities are not able to alleviate this need in a significant way. However, past planning processes have revealed significant concerns from Moultonborough residents regarding proposed facility costs, both for capital development and on-going operations and maintenance. In addition, concerns have been raised regarding the changing demographics of the town and whether there will be enough demand for a new indoor recreation facility in the future. These concerns, along with the concerns of residents who feel that current indoor recreation space is inadequate were central drivers behind this current study. This study also considered the broader parks and recreation needs in the town as well.

2. General Observations of Moultonborough Recreation Facilities

Tours of indoor and outdoor facilities available for public recreation in Moultonborough were done on Friday, September 12, 2014. Since the primary driver behind this study was related to indoor recreation facilities, only observations of available indoor recreation space are noted below. However, the project team did tour Moultonborough's outdoor recreation facilities, including those at Playground Drive, school athletic fields, town-owned parks and beaches, and the Moultonborough Pathway. Observations on indoor recreation facilities, including those facilities that are shared between the town and the schools, are noted below.

Moultonborough Academy (gymnasium, cafeteria, auditorium). All activity areas are usable and appropriate for public recreation activities. There appears to be a good working relationship between the school and recreation department. Practical and reasonable concerns on both sides (mostly related to conflicting times when school and recreation department programs are in demand) limit what can reasonably be accomplished through this partnership. However, it appears that both the school and the town are interested in continuing to dialogue about ways to use excess school capacity where it exists to accommodate public recreation activities.

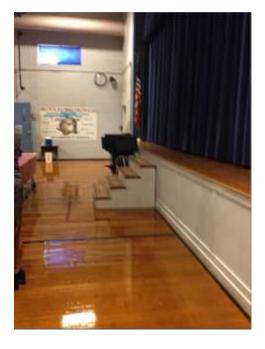
- The Moultonborough Academy gym facility is large and can accommodate youth and adult basketball and volleyball players, as well as other suitable indoor activities. Challenges include scheduling availability the facility is shared with Moultonborough Academy and middle grades school basketball programs, putting pressure on recreation leagues for scheduling. This facility is primarily available on Saturdays, and can only accommodate game play once per week. There are no recreation basketball practices held at the Moultonborough Academy gym. The fixed volleyball standards create challenges for recreation staff in terms of setup and take down, cutting into potential playing time. Summer use is limited by the school administration, as they take the school off line for cleaning and floor refinishing. This is good space, but it was designed as a high school gymnasium and not as a multiuse recreation space that can handle mass recreational participation.
- ✓ The Cafeteria provides usable space for passive indoor recreation activities, space for overnight lock-ins, arts and crafts, snacks/meals, and meetings. This space is not practically usable for active recreation activities, and set-up and take down of tables and chairs to prepare the activity space creates a significant challenge for recreation staff. The Cafeteria lacks storage, and this requires recreation staff to bring all equipment in and out for programs, creating challenges for equipment-intensive programming.
- ✓ The Moultonborough Academy Auditorium is a significant asset for the town and can accommodate performing arts activities, large lectures, and other special events. While the facility is an asset for these types of special events and programs, it is not usable for day-to-day recreation activities.

Central School (gymnasium, gym/cafeteria/multipurpose room). The activity areas in this school are older, smaller, and limited in terms of their use for public recreation programs. The same dynamics regarding the school-town partnership, including the potential for future dialogue and discussion, appear to be in play with the Central School facilities.

- ✓ The Central School Gymnasium is inadequate for adult or older adult programs due to its size, except possibly as an alternative practice or pickup/drop in facility. The gymnasium here could be appropriate for beginner children's programs (i.e. recreation basketball or volleyball). The facility could also be used for activities such as recreational dance or gymnastics. Issues with storage have made it necessary to store gym mats and other equipment in close proximity to the playing area, reducing the perception of the facility's size and creating potential risk management challenges.
- ✓ Gym/Cafeteria/Multipurpose Room is not at all adequate as a suitable gym facility for sports such as basketball due to its size, conditions of the backboards and rims, and the danger posed by having the auditorium stage right on the basketball baseline. In addition, the height of the basketball hoops cannot be raised or lowered based on the needs of different age groups. The space could possibly be used for activities like recreational dance, fencing, pickleball, group fitness, gymnastics, dodgeball, or any number of creative afterschool physical activities. The lack of storage creates challenges for effectively running these activities in this space.

Lion's Club Facility. The town owns this facility but leases it to the Lions Club to use for no charge as part of the acquisition price, and the Lions Club controls facility scheduling. This creates scheduling pressure for town recreation activities. The building serves as a de facto senior center, hosting the meals program and other senior activities (social, cards, games, bingo). There appears to be no real potential for the building to host active recreation programs as it exists within its current footprint. The building appears to need upgrades in its kitchen space to be able to continue to serve as a suitable site for a popular senior meals program, as well as ensuring the building is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The building as it exists could serve recreation department needs for special events or senior center space with creative space planning, using dividers to section out the room, improving lighting and atmosphere, and addressing concerns with the set-up, take-down and storage of tables which creates significant inefficiencies for recreation staff.

Town Recreation Office Space on Holland Road. The town Recreation Department controls a building with dedicated office space for recreation staff, a reception desk, meeting room, game room, and a multipurpose space that has been retrofitted to accommodate activities. The Recreation Department offices provide usable space for work and meetings but the space is not suitable for active recreation programs. Currently the drop-in after school program meets here and has been experiencing a loss of daily attendance. It is clear that the space is inadequate to provide challenging, interesting, developmental, and active recreation programming at a reasonable scale. The game room has a pool table, top for table tennis, and television/media. There is a small kitchen. This could be a useful space to develop a teen coffee-house drop in program and apparently that has been tried and met with some success in the past. However, younger children need space to be active and to do more than just play games and watch movies. This space is inadequate for programmed activities. The multipurpose room has accommodated adult group fitness programs in the past but is inadequate for these programs. The ceiling height is low and the retrofitted floor (interlocking rubber foam panels) is wearing and coming apart in places. The space would be fine for offices or meeting space, as a social space for seniors or others, or as a place for cards and games. Existing meeting space in the facility is used in the summer for similar purposes to some success.





3. Benchmarking

Fourteen (14) benchmark communities were identified by the Town Administrator and Recreation Study Work Group, and after solicitation of public input. Benchmark communities were deemed by the town to be comparable along dimensions of size, scope of services offered, geographic location, or some combination. The benchmark communities identified in this study were: Alton, Ashland, Belmont, Bow, Campton, Conway, Franklin, Gilford, Goffstown, Meredith, Ossipee, Peterborough, Plymouth, and Wolfeboro. A web-survey (see Appendix A) was sent to all benchmark communities soliciting information related to population size, recreation and town budget, recreation staffing levels, and indoor recreation facilities. Of the 14 benchmark communities identified in this study, completed data was received from eight (57%) – Ashland, Belmont, Conway, Franklin, Gilford, Meredith, Ossipee, and Wolfeboro. All are located in or near the Lakes Region, and all have staff (FTE's) dedicated specifically to town-supported recreation. Benchmarking data was provided by recreation directors or town administrators. Year-round population totals were cross-checked with the 2013 United States Census Bureau statistics for New Hampshire, and were adjusted as applicable. Municipal budget data was cross-checked with Community Profiles data from the New Hampshire Employment Security office and was adjusted as applicable. Data on seasonal population, recreation general fund allocation, recreation cost recovery, and recreation staffing levels (FTEs) were all provided by the benchmark towns. Because Franklin did not provide seasonal population estimates, and there was no publicly available information regarding seasonal population, it was left out of all per capita analyses.

Table 1 shows the breakdown analysis related to financing town recreation services. In this analysis, Moultonborough is slightly behind peer communities in terms of recreation general fund allocations, and is roughly even in recreation tax funding allocation per capita. The Moultonborough Recreation Department is the second most efficient community in terms of cost recovery, as the Department generates approximately 26% of its budget from program fees and other charges. The Recreation budget allocation as a percentage of the overall town budget is comparable to peer communities, as is the level of staff support (FTEs) for parks and recreation programming. Overall, in comparison with peer communities, Moultonborough appears to be more-or-less in-line with similar communities in terms of financial support for town recreation operations and staffing, and appears to be more successful in its ability to generate revenue from recreation programs and services.



Table 1: Benchmarking Information – Town Financial Support of Recreation

	Year-Round Population	Seasonal Population	Rec General Fund Allocation	Rec Allocation Per Capita	Cost Recovery	Percent Cost Recovery	Municipal Budget	Rec Allocation as % of Town Budget	Rec Staff FTEs
Ashland	2,061	3,500	\$95,000	\$17.08	\$2,017	2.1%	\$2,559,671	3.7%	1.0
Belmont	7,328	1,676	\$111,083	\$12.33	\$29,770	21.1%	\$8,335,939	1.3%	1.0
Conway	10,070	60,000	\$316,131	\$4.51	\$85,000	2.2%	\$10,189,547	3.1%	3.5
Franklin	8,456	NA	\$363,586	NA	\$26,519	6.8%	\$10,072,555	3.6%	2.25
Gilford	7,136	15,000	\$235,754	\$10.65	\$73,116	23.7%	\$11,286,193	2.1%	2.0
Meredith	6,287	18,000	\$719,110	\$29.61	\$87,314	10.8%	\$13,902,674	5.1%	5
Moultonborough	4,070	20,495	\$323,697	\$13.19	\$113,979	26.0%	\$10,466,828	3.1%	3.5
Ossipee	4,308	12,500	\$156,735	\$9.32	0	0.0%	\$6,625,906	2.4%	1
Wolfeboro	6,244	20,000	\$750,000	\$28.58	\$359,553	32.4%	\$24,415,881	3.1%	4.5
Averages	6,217.8	18,896.4	\$341,232.9	\$13.58	\$86,363.2	20.2%	\$10,872,799	3.1%	2.5

Identified Benchmark Communities that did not provide completed information or that did not respond to the benchmarking survey: Alton, Bow, Campton, Goffstown, Plymouth, and Peterborough.

Table 2: Benchmarking Information – Indoor Recreation Facilities with Gyms, Senior Programs, and Recreation Advisory Boards

	Indoor	Indoor Rec	Rec	Recreation
	Recreation	Facility w	Department	Advisory Board?
	Facility w Gym	Gym Square	Offer Senior	
		Footage	Programs?	
Ashland	No	NA	No	Yes
Belmont	No	NA	No	No
Conway	Yes	5,400	Yes	No
Franklin	Yes	8,770	No	No
Gilford	No	NA	Yes	Yes
Meredith	Yes	18,000	Yes	Yes
Moultonborough	No	NA	Yes	Yes
Ossipee	Yes	3,500	Yes	No
Wolfeboro	No	NA	Yes	No

Of the benchmark communities, four have dedicated indoor activity space specifically for town recreation programs and services. However, of these four, only Meredith provides a full-service dedicated indoor recreation center comparable to what has been proposed in Moultonborough in past studies. Conway and Franklin have both acquired former school properties and are using these in the provision of town recreation programs and services. Ossipee uses a building constructed in 1929. All of the benchmark communities except Meredith noted that they actively partner with their local schools for provision of indoor activity space. Some communities (i.e. Gilford) noted that they partner with local churches for indoor activity space. Ashland has an indoor recreation space without a gym similar to the Moultonborough Recreation Office.

Most of the benchmark communities reported that their town recreation departments provide programs and services for senior adults. Programs include ballroom dancing, Bingo, senior trips, fitness programs, socialization opportunities, and senior meals. Almost all of the communities mentioned that there were also other civic and non-profit organizations in town that served seniors as well.

- ✓ **Ashland** small indoor facility including a multipurpose room, meeting room, office space, kitchen, storage; share the facility with Food for All Community Meals and Ashland Rebekah's; there is no gymnasium in this building; use school gymnasium for indoor recreation activities.
- ✓ **Belmont** no dedicated indoor recreation facility; partner with the schools for indoor recreation activities; also use small activity space located at the recreation office.

- ✓ Conway town recreation department inherited old elementary school; dedicated indoor activity space includes basketball courts, multipurpose rooms, meeting rooms, office, kitchen, concessions; town offers senior programs (e.g. ballroom dancing, Bingo, senior trips); Gibson Center in North Conway also offers programs for seniors.
- ✓ Franklin town recreation department moved to old school building in 1993; dedicated indoor activity space includes basketball courts, multipurpose rooms, meeting rooms, offices, fitness/weight room, kitchen, game room/activity room; town recreation department shares building and activity space with other community services (child care, Head Start, Senior Center); also has access to an indoor basketball facility; TRIP Center provides programs for senior adults.
- ✓ **Gilford** no dedicated indoor recreation facility; partner with the school, Community Church, the Gilford Youth Center, and the library for indoor recreation programs; town library, Rotary, and local churches provide programs for seniors.
- ✓ Meredith indoor recreation facility built in 2006 for \$3.5 million; includes basketball/volleyball courts, multipurpose rooms, meeting rooms, offices, locker rooms, kitchen; Meredith generates approximately \$87,314 by indoor facility, while the average operating expenses are \$102,700; town recreation department runs programs for seniors focusing on socialization, exercise, health, and education.
- ✓ Ossipee has a dedicated indoor recreation facility that was built in 1929; facility includes basketball court, meeting rooms, and a kitchen; the facility is shared by numerous town groups/residents, civic groups and non-profit organizations; contracted programs offered at the facility give 20% back to the town to help with expenses, but building operations are a separate budget line in the town budget (separate from the recreation department); recreation department also uses school gyms, fields, and classrooms for recreation activity space; town provides programs for seniors including exercise/fitness classes, oil paint class, and a walking program however, these are open to all adults not just seniors; Ossipee Concerned Citizens also provides programs for senior adults.
- ✓ Wolfeboro no dedicated indoor recreation activity space; town partners with local schools for indoor recreation programs; adult recreation opportunities are offered for seniors through the Department focusing on activities such as sailing, tennis, pickleball, quilting, and swimming, among others; senior needs are also met through Wolfeboro Senior Center and Meals, Meals on Wheels, Wolfeboro Seniors Club.

Three of the benchmark communities have a Recreation Advisory Board, while five of the communities do not. Gilford provided a copy of its Parks and Recreation Commission By-Laws (see Appendix B). While the other benchmark communities did not provide by-laws, all of these citizen governance structures are believed to be advisory in nature.

4. Observations and Themes from Focus Groups

Focus groups and interviews were held with concerned citizens and stakeholder groups in Moultonborough throughout the day on Monday, October 20, 2014 and Wednesday, October 22, 2014. A separate interview with one stakeholder was held on Friday, October 10, 2014. Approximately 19 focus group and 1-1 interviews were held with approximately 70 residents and stakeholders. Stakeholder groups represented a range of interests including recreation and town staff, program partners, Select Board members, adult recreation participants, Recreation Advisory Board members, ABC/Capital Improvement Planning Committee members, parents of recreation participants, youth participants, Moultonborough School administration, recreational sport coaches and officials, and seniors. Meetings were scheduled through the town and coordinated with the Recreation Department, and were facilitated by the project team from UNH. Meetings consisted of an open, guided conversation related to the recreation needs and priorities in Moultonborough. Detailed notes and audio recordings of public sessions were taken for each meeting, and a representative of the recreation study committee advising this project was present at all meetings of the public acting in the role of "observer."

The project team met to review focus group notes and discuss salient themes and trends that emerged across the interviews. The following themes and observations were found by the team to be dominant and salient throughout the focus group and interview process:

- 1. The Town of Moultonborough has committed citizens interested in public recreation issues. The public is clearly invested in the discussion regarding public recreation in Moultonborough, regardless of whether they support or oppose the building of a new indoor recreation facility. This was evident in the number of residents who attended focus groups and other events and activities related to this project. Residents are clearly interested in issues that affect them, including public spending, economic development, shifting demographic trends, quality of public education, and issues impacting quality of life (including recreation). All of these topics were mentioned and discussed in focus group conversations.
- 2. Moultonborough has adequate outdoor recreation opportunities. There is a consensus that Moultonborough has outstanding outdoor recreation resources, including access to Lake Winnepesaukee. Residents were largely complementary of certain town-owned outdoor recreation resources, especially the Moultonborough Pathway, town beaches, and boat launch facilities. Residents across the spectrum generally believe that outdoor recreation facilities (e.g. ballfields, playgrounds) are adequate for Moultonborough's population and current recreation programs. With access to school athletic fields, organized athletics needs appear to be currently met with existing outdoor resources. However, there is some concern with poor drainage on existing outdoor athletic fields at Playground Drive, and there are issues with poor sub-surfaces on the town's baseball/softball fields that are causing them to sink. There was discussion about the need for continuing to effectively manage existing outdoor recreation facilities, including committing to ongoing routine maintenance.
- 3. There is a large contingent of citizens opposed to new indoor recreation facility development. There are numerous concerns that have been raised about new recreation facility development, particularly related to an indoor recreation building. At the center of these concerns are perceptions of the project's cost and scope, with residents worried about such a project adding to property tax rates. Those who oppose this project also suggest that a declining

school population, younger people leaving the area for better jobs elsewhere, and concerns with whether there is sufficient demand to adequately fill new indoor activity spaces are reasons to oppose a new indoor recreation facility. Other reasons mentioned throughout the focus groups and interviews include the idea that that seniors and retirees can take care of their own recreation needs without the town's financial support, a lack of trust with the town based on past infrastructure and spending projects, and a feeling that there has been a lack of transparency with town recreation participation numbers in the past, and that current participation trends do not support the need for new facility development. Opponents point to other indoor recreation facility projects in the area that have not been successful or are underutilized, or they suggest that there is existing capacity that is not being effectively utilized. There is frustration that this issue continues to come up for discussion when opponents of the project believe that it has been defeated in a past town meeting. Some focus group participants mentioned that they could possibly support a new indoor recreation facility if it was small in scope, did not significantly add to the current tax rate, and if it could be shown that there was a need for the facility.

- 4. There is a passionate group of citizens who are advocates for developing a new indoor recreation facility. This group tends to consist of younger residents, and they generally have children who are current or past participants of town-sponsored recreation programs. These residents expressed that while there are plenty of outdoor recreation options in Moultonborough, the available indoor activity space in the town is inadequate, particularly for the large portion of the year when it is difficult to get outside. Many of these residents said that they were driving to other towns to engage in indoor recreation activities, including Meredith. Transportation was raised as a barrier for indoor recreation participation given the size of the town, and depending on where people live. There was also concern expressed about the lack of adequate indoor space for the drop-in afterschool program, leading many parents to pull their children out of this program. Similar sentiments were expressed about the lack of indoor recreation space during poor weather days in the summer, affecting summer camp participation. The lack of indoor space available for the town's recreation department in the summer has led to a summer camp schedule that is not feasible for working parents. In addition, there was considerable discussion about the lack of available court/gym space for basketball practice because of facility conflicts with Moultonborough school teams, and residents mentioned that the late start times for basketball games are inappropriate for young children. Some residents discussed the need for safe indoor walking areas, and mentioned that these opportunities did not exist in Moultonborough. There was frustration about the fact that this issue has been studied many times, and that construction of an indoor recreation facility has been recommended in the past yet continues to be a point of contention in the town. While this group was passionate in their support for a new facility, turnout among supporters to focus group sessions was lower than those who were opposed to the project.
- 5. There is support for increasing partnerships between the town Recreation Department and Moultonborough schools. There is a perception among many focus group participants that the existing relationship between the school and the town could be stronger. Focus group participants believe that the town's recreation department should be able to get more indoor space for recreation activity programming, specifically for the afterschool drop-in and CATCH programs and summer camp program. It is generally understood that during peak use times, especially during the winter sports season, that there is little excess capacity for indoor gym space in the schools when gym space is available in the school, it isn't needed, and when it is needed it isn't available. However, there is also the perception among focus group participants

that existing space that is available to the recreation department could be used more effectively. One example that was raised is the possibility of providing afterschool physical activity programming in the Central School gym/cafeteria/auditorium space. Focus group participants also discussed the possibility of having the school allocate indoor gym, cafeteria, and classroom space for six to eight weeks in the summer to enhance the recreation department's summer day camp program. This model is currently being used in Belmont, and there was some discussion about how this could work in Moultonborough.

- 6. There is support for exploring partnership opportunities with surrounding communities and businesses. One theme that cut across focus group sessions was the interest in partnering with surrounding towns, organizations, and businesses. Existing partnerships are already happening between area recreation departments, including collaboration on senior trips and activities, youth sports activities and events, beach access (with Center Harbor), and pickleball (with Meredith). There was some discussion about extending a partnership with Meredith to include using the Meredith indoor recreation center on Sundays when it is currently closed, and about partnering with Sandwich to use excess school facility space there for Moultonborough youth basketball practices. Apparently this is happening now on an ad hoc basis. Focus group participants discussed the possibilities of partnering with other local towns around shared indoor facility development, and there was willingness expressed by some of Moultonborough's neighbors (i.e. Sandwich) to explore this option. There is a sense among focus group participants that there is not enough of a population for each town in the area to do their own projects, but the idea of joining forces with other communities could be appealing. Both opponents and supporters of an indoor recreation facility talked about increasing the possibilities for public-private partnerships related to recreation that could be tied to healthy living or economic development. Some focus group participants talked about the possibilities for working in partnership with Camp Tecumseh by assisting to upgrade the gym facility there so that it could be used by the town in the winter for basketball and other youth sport activities. However, others felt that there were barriers regarding transportation and getting people and equipment to the site.
- 7. Some seniors support the idea of having dedicated recreation, social, and activity space for senior adults. Some focus group participants talked about the need for seniors to have space to meet and engage in recreation activities with one another. Many participants expressed the idea that town recreation programs should not just be about children and youth, and that senior adult programming should be considered as well. However, others suggested that senior adults do not always want organized and structured programs, and that existing town space (e.g. the town recreation offices, Library meeting rooms) were adequate for these activities. Senior adults consistently mentioned the pickleball program at Meredith as a model program and one that they were very interested in participating in.
- 8. The Lion's Club facility needs to be better utilized or repurposed. Focus group participants consistently discussed the Lion's Club facility, and its lack of adequacy as a space for viable recreation programming in its current condition. There was discussion about the fact that it was not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, that the existing configuration was not conducive to active recreation, and that the kitchen space was inadequate for the number of meals that are served through the senior meals program, and that the bathrooms and storage spaces were not adequate. Some focus group participants suggested that the current atmosphere at the Lion's Club was not inviting and inhibited the desire to participate in

programs there. Interviews with recreation department staff confirmed that the existing policy of having to set up and tear down tables before and after programming also creates barriers to using the facility for senior programs. Set-up and tear-down time cuts into program time, and it is not feasible for seniors to do this themselves. The current arrangement with the Lion's Club is also seen to be difficult to work with, as available time for programming is scarce, and while the town owns the facility, they do not control the scheduling of the facility. The outdoor pavilion was generally seen favorably. There was frustration expressed by some in the focus groups that other outdoor spaces had drainage issues, and could not be used. However, others noted that analysis of the site suggested that drainage was not an issue and could easily be mitigated if there was a need to do so.

4. Data Analysis from the Public Input Session

A public input session was held in the Moultonborough Academy auditorium on Wednesday, October 22, 2014. All Moultonborough residents were invited to attend, and the event was publicized through printed information located in town offices, via postcard sent to resident homes, and through Moultonborough's One Call voicemail system. Approximately 133 residents attended the public input session, which included public survey polling using the iClicker system, as well as group exercises designed to receive public input on important recreation planning issues, such as facility development, management priorities, and willingness to pay.



The following table shows the demographic profile of the 133 residents in attendance at the public input session. Only those residents who provided answers to the demographic questions are included in the table below:

Table 3: Demographic Information for Public Input Participants

	n	Percent
Age		
18-25	2	1.6%
26-40	5	4.0%
41-55	26	20.8%
56-70	62	49.6%
70 - older	30	24.0%
Children Living in Home		
Under 6 years old	3	2.4%
6-12 years old	20	16.1%
13-18 years old	24	18.8%
Children any age	29	22.7%
Resident Status		
Year-Round Residents	116	93.5%
Seasonal Residents	8	6.5%
Time Living in Moultonborough		
Less than 1 year	1	0.8%
1-5 years	5	3.9%
6-10 years	26	20.2%
11-20 years	45	34.9%
More than 20 years	52	40.3%
Weekly Recreation Facility Use		
0 times	76	60.3%
1 time	12	9.5%
2 times	10	7.9%
3 times	10	7.9%
4 or more times	18	14.3%
Yearly Recreation Program Participation		
0 programs	79	63.7%
1-2	16	12.9%
3-4	8	6.5%
5-7	11	8.9%
8 or more	10	8.1%
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Survey questions given at the public input session were designed to test some of the themes that were heard in the focus groups, and to receive deeper input on recreation planning issues. For example, residents were asked whether they believed that the town should provide quality recreation programs and/or facilities. Responses to these questions are noted in the table below.

Table 4: Philosophy on Town-Sponsored Recreation Programs and Facilities

	n	Percent
The Town of Moultonborough should provide	e quality recreation facilities	and amenities.
Strongly agree	37	31.1%
Agree	21	17.6%
Disagree	23	19.3%
Strongly disagree	37	31.1%
The Town of Moultonborough should provide	e quality recreation program	ns and services.
Strongly agree	48	38.1%
Agree	29	23.0%
Disagree	17	13.5%
Strongly disagree	32	25.4%

Statistically significant differences were found on both of these questions between residents who have children living with them and those who do not, and between residents under age 55 and those who are age 55 and over. Residents with children and those who are under age 55 are significantly more likely to say that the town should provide recreation facilities and programs.



Questions were also asked to determine the priorities that residents placed on issues surrounding partnerships and space allocation for recreation use. These questions were developed based on themes that emerged in focus group sessions. For example, residents were asked questions about whether they felt it was reasonable to develop policies to allocate indoor and outdoor space at the schools for recreation use during the school year (i.e. afterschool and on weekends), as well as during the summer. Residents were also asked whether they felt it was reasonable to explore and expand opportunities for recreation partnerships with surrounding communities. Responses to these questions are listed in the table below.

Table 5: Perceptions of Partnerships with Schools and Local Communities

	n	Percent				
It is reasonable to develop policies and procedures to better allocate indoor and outdoor space at the schools for recreation programs and services during the school year for out-of-school time activities (e.g. classroom space, gyms, cafeteria, multi-use space)						
Strongly agree	56	48.3%				
Agree	37	31.9%				
Disagree	12	10.3%				
Strongly disagree	11	9.5%				
schools for recreation programs and services i time in school buildings). Strongly agree						
Agree	41	34.7%				
Disagree	7	5.9%				
Strongly disagree	6	5.1%				
It is reasonable to explore and expand opports communities (e.g. Meredith, Sandwich, Center		rships with surrounding				
Strongly agree	70	58.3%				
Agree	33	27.5%				
Disagree	12	10.0%				
Strongly disagree	5	4.2%				

Based on responses in the public input session, it appears that there is clearly consensus to enhance partnership opportunities between the school and the recreation department, and between the town and surrounding communities for recreation delivery. While there are currently fruitful partnerships occurring between these groups, there are possibilities for extending these partnerships to include more usable space in the schools for recreation programs during the afterschool and summer times.

It should be noted that those residents with children, and those residents who were under age 55 were significantly less supportive of increasing partnerships with the school for facility space during the afterschool hours, and for working more closely in partnership with surrounding communities. This diverges somewhat from focus group conversations, where there was more

consensus on these issues. It is likely that these subgroups feel that increased partnership opportunities will not meet their needs for dedicated indoor recreation space, and pursuing such partnerships might delay or jeopardize efforts to develop new indoor recreation spaces in Moultonborough. Regardless, significant majorities appear to support increased partnership efforts as a way to maximize existing facility capacity.

Residents were also asked questions about their feelings concerning reasonable funding options for town recreation programs and facilities. For example, residents were asked whether it was reasonable for users to pay a fee to participate in town recreation programs and to use town recreation facilities, and whether it was reasonable for the town to subsidize recreation programs and facilities through tax allocations. Responses to these questions are listed in the table below.

Table 6: Willingness to Pay

	n	Percent
It is reasonable for users to pay a fee t	o participate in Town recreation pro	ograms and services.
Strongly agree	54	45.4%
Agree	44	37.0%
Disagree	18	15.1%
Strongly disagree	3	2.5%
It is reasonable to allocate tax resource affordable for Town residents (e.g. ser lower incomes).	niors on fixed incomes, families with	n children, households with
Strongly agree	27 47	22.9% 39.8%
Agree	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
Disagree	23	19.5% 16.9%
Strongly disagree	20	10.9%
It is reasonable for users to pay a fee f	for Town parks and recreation facili	ties and amenities.
Strongly agree	34	28.8%
Agree	41	34.7%
Disagree	28	23.7%
Strongly disagree	15	12.7%
It is reasonable for the Town to alloca facilities and amenities.	te tax resources for the developmen	l nt of parks and recreation
Strongly agree	34	30.4%
Agree	30	26.8%
Disagree	24	21.4%
Strongly disagree	24	21.4%

A majority of public input session participants felt that it was reasonable for users to pay a fee to participate in town recreation programs, as well as to use town-owned parks and recreation facilities. In addition, a majority of participants felt that it was reasonable for the town to allocate tax resources to make sure that recreation programs were affordable for economically vulnerable

residents, as well as for the development of parks and recreation facilities and amenities. While a majority of public input participants felt it was reasonable to allocate tax resources for the development of town recreation facilities, many residents had discussions at their tables suggesting that they wanted to see tax resources used to improve and maintain existing recreation facilities first. Regardless, there appeared to be some consensus on the idea that public funding for parks and recreation should come from some combination of tax allocations and user fees and charges – typical of the public recreation funding mix found in communities throughout the state.

It should be noted that there were no statistical differences in responses between groups on whether it is reasonable to charge fees to users for participation in recreation programs or for use of recreation facilities. There was some discussion in the focus groups about residents wanting a "hand-out" from the town government to support their niche recreation needs. However, public input session participants suggested that they felt it was reasonable to pay fees for use of town recreation programs and facilities. Program fees are currently being collected for participation in town recreation programs such as youth sports, trips, and the Happy Campers program among others. While majorities agreed or strongly agreed that tax allocations were a reasonable part of the funding mix for town recreation programs and recreation facility development, there were significant differences between groups on these questions. Residents with children and those under age 55 were significantly more likely to see tax allocations as a reasonable method of funding recreation programs and facility development.

A series of table exercises were completed where public input participants were asked to discuss a series of questions related to their priorities for new recreation programs and/or new recreation facilities. Participants were asked to work individually and discuss their thoughts with those sitting at their table. In some cases, tables were asked to try to come up with consensus around priorities for recreation program and facility development. For example, participants were asked to talk about and list in order of importance their top three priorities for town recreation programs and services, and for recreation facilities and amenities.

Participants' priorities for recreation facility development were grouped into common types, and listed in order based on the frequency of occurrence on table notecards. Facility priorities are noted below:

- 1. Enhance/maintain existing facilities/no new facilities
- 2. Community/senior center (e.g. gymnasium/basketball courts, indoor gym/track, pickleball courts, craft/game room, youth drop-in area, indoor swimming, better/improved bathroom facilities)
- 3. Town beaches/public water access (e.g. boat launches)
- 4. Outdoor trails/walkways
- 5. Athletic fields/tennis courts
- 6. Senior center/senior activity space (e.g. community center without a gym)
- 7. Update or sell Lions' Club facility
- 8. Partner with other communities/organizations to use facilities (e.g. schools, surrounding towns, Camp Tecumseh)
- 9. Dog park
- 10. Winter sports/Nordic center/Ice rink

Ideas for new or enhanced recreation programs were also generated by public input participants. Program ideas were grouped into common types, and listed in order based on the frequency of occurrence on table notecards. Program priorities are noted below:

- 1. Adults/seniors fitness or social programs (e.g. cards/games, yoga, senior meals)
- 2. Youth recreational sports
- 3. Educational programs for adults and youth
- 4. Afterschool programs (e.g. Kid's homework club)
- 5. Full-day indoor summer camp
- 6. Swim lessons
- 7. Martial arts
- 8. Community dinners
- 9. Family programs
- 10. Health services
- 11. Preschool programming
- 12. Art programs
- 13. Winter/outdoor programs (e.g. hiking club)

Finally, public input participants were asked to write down their concerns or worries about the discussions taking place in the town related to recreation facility development. Comments received by notecards and generated through table discussions centered around the following themes:

- ✓ Concerns about increased public spending that could raise property tax rates;
- ✓ Concerns that existing facilities are not being efficiently utilized right now;
- ✓ Concerns about the actual demand for new facilities, and worries that new facilities will be developed and they will be underutilized;
- ✓ Concerns that those who moved to Moultonborough because of low taxes will not support public recreation priorities;
- ✓ Concerns that needed recreation facilities will not be available for residents (especially children and youth), particularly in the winter months where indoor facilities are most needed.



6. Data Analysis from the Town Wide Survey

The Town of Moultonborough distributed post cards with a link to an online survey to roughly 6000 households in the town (see Appendix C for post cards). Paper copies of the questionnaires were available at the town hall and the library for people who were unable to complete the online questionnaire (see Appendix D for the questionnaire). Paper questionnaires were numbered and tracked as they were given out, in an effort to prevent people from completing multiple questionnaires.

A total of 905 questionnaires were completed online and 65 paper copies were completed, returned and entered into the database. Respondents to the online questionnaire did differ from those completing the paper questionnaire on various questions. A sample of six items was selected for a comparison of responses between the online and the paper questionnaires. The items included age and the five questions regarding funding sources for recreation.

There were significant differences on age of the respondents and on three of the funding sources items. Where there were differences between the online and paper versions, the online responses were more supportive of each of the statements. Table 7 shows the details of the comparison between online questionnaires and paper questionnaires.

Table 7: Differences between Online and Paper Surveys

Comparison Variable	Overall Mean	Online Mean	Paper Mean	P-Value	Sig
Age	61.2 (SD 11.5)	60.5 (SD 11.4)	70.3 (SD 8.0)	37.95	.000
I would be willing to pay a fee for the use of certain recreation facilities in Moultonborough.	2.96 (SD 1.4)	3.01 (SD 1.4)	2.34 (SD 1.3)	14.22	.000
I would be willing to pay a fee to participate in recreation programs and activities in Moultonborough.	3.18 (SD 1.3)	3.24 (SD 1.3)	2.49 (SD 1.3)	19.36	.000
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain park and recreation facilities in Moultonborough.	2.92 (SD 1.5)	2.96 (SD 1.5)	2.44 (SD 1.5)	7.05	.008

Respondents reported an average age of 61.2 years old (median age = 62), 50.6% were male and 22.1% had children under the age of 18 living in their homes. The median age of survey respondents was more than 6 years older than the general population. Less than half of respondents reported working full-time (42.5%). Nearly 70% of respondents had a residence in Moultonborough for more than 10 years. Approximately 59% of respondents lived in Moultonborough 12 months out of the year (see Table 8 for detailed demographic data).

Table 8: Demographics for the Resident Survey

Variable	Percent, Median or Mean	Number	
Age			
Average Age	Median = 62 (SD 11.5)	749	
18-35	2.3%	17	
36-50	15.6%	117	
51-64	38.9%	291	
65-80	40.2%	301	
81 and older	3.1%	23	
Gender			
Male	50.6%	408	
Female	49.4%	398	
Employment Status			
Employed Full-Time	42.5%	343	
Employed Part-Time	8.7%	70	
Retired	43.9%	355	
Not Retired nor Employed	2.6%	21	
Number of Years (part & full)			
Average Number of years	M = 20.6 (SD 14.5)	796	
0-10	29.3%	233	
11-20	30.7%	244	
21-40	30.7%	244	
41 and more	9.4%	75	
Months per year in Town			
Average months	M = 9.4 (SD 3.6)	773	
0-6	28.5%	233	
7-11	12.7%	98	
12 months	58.9%	455	
Primary or Seasonal Residents			
Primary Residence	70.4%	569	
Second or Seasonal Residence	29.6%	239	
Households w/ Children	22.1%	179	
Children under the age of 5	3.6%	29	
Children between 6-12	12.5%	101	
Children between 13-18	14.8%	119	
Grandchildren living in Town	7.3%	59	

Nearly 24% of respondents reported going to the Meredith Community Center. People with children were significantly more likely to use the Meredith Community Center and the Wolfeboro Ice Rink than respondents without children. People who reported that their home in Moultonborough was their primary residence were also significantly more likely to use the Meredith Community Center.

Table 9: Use of Recreation Facilities in Other Communities

Variable	Overall n	n and % users	n and % non-users
Center Harbor Beach on Lake Winnipesaukee	937	434 (46.3%)	503 (51.9%)
Meredith Community Center	860	205 (23.8%)	655 (76.2%)
Laconia Athletic and Swim Club	840	85 (10.1%)	755 (89.9%)
Wolfeboro Ice Rink	818	62 (7.6%)	756 (92.4%)

A portion of the population reported that their needs for recreation facilities were not being met by the current town facilities. For example, between one-fourth and one-third of respondents reported a need for indoor recreation facilities in the form of a fitness center, indoor pool, senior center, athletic gyms or multipurpose gyms. More than 40% of respondents reported that current bike paths did not adequately meet their needs. Respondents to the survey with children living in the home were significantly more likely to express a need for indoor facilities than those without children (see Table 10 for overall percentages of residents who expressed recreation facility needs).

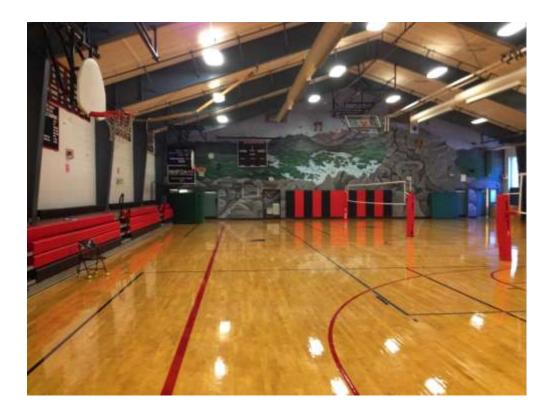


Table 10: Importance and Availability of Recreational Facilities in Moultonborough

Variable	Overall n	n (%) Reporting: Important but unavailable OR Available but inadequate
INDOOR FACILITIES		
Indoor Weight Room/Fitness Center	844	293 (34.7%)
Indoor Swimming Pool	844	282 (33.4%)
Indoor Senior Center	843	249 (29.5%)
Indoor Multipurpose Gyms	844	229 (27.1%)
Indoor Gym or Athletic Courts	846	222 (26.2%)
Teen/Youth Center	841	220 (26.2%)
Indoor Performing Arts Center	838	183 (21.8%)
Indoor Community Meeting Space/Rooms	837	170 (20.3%)
Indoor Ice Skating/Ice Arena	839	158 (18.8%)
OUTDOOR OPEN SPACE AND PARKS		
Undesignated Green Space	833	201 (24.1%)
Pet/Dog Park	851	197 (23.1%)
Outdoor Bandstand/Performing Arts Stage	844	175 (20.7%)
Built/developed parks	828	171 (20.7%)
Outdoor Ice Skating	843	141 (16.7%)
Outdoor Swimming Pool	842	120 (14.3%)
Skateboard/Action Sport Park	845	105 (12.4%)
Playgrounds	841	101 (12.0%)
ATHLETIC FIELDS		
Multi-use Athletic Fields	846	119 (14.1%)
Outdoor Tennis Courts	846	119 (14.1%)
Baseball/Softball Fields	846	108 (12.8%)
TRAILS AND PATHS		
Bike Lanes/Paths	840	344 (41.0%)
Non-motorized trails or greenways	833	287 (34.5%)
Motorized Recreational Trails	841	132 (15.7%)
LAKE FACILITIES		
Public Beaches	848	127 (15.0%)
Public Boat Launches	848	111 (13.1%)

In addition to certain indoor recreation facilities, indoor-focused recreation programming such as fitness programs, art programs and various other indoor activities were reported as programming needs in the town of Moultonborough by a portion of the population (see Table 11).

Table 11: Importance of Recreational Programs in Moultonborough

Variable	Overall N	N (%) Reporting: Important but unavailable OR Important but inadequate
Fitness programs (e.g. aerobics, weights, yoga, pilates)	809	318 (39.3%)
Senior/older adult recreation activities	803	262 (32.6%)
Musical concerts and performances	807	260 (32.3%)
Nature or environmental education programs	806	253 (31.4%)
Aquatics/swim programs (e.g. swim lessons, water aerobics)	804	249 (31.0%)
Arts and cultural programs (e.g. performing arts, art lessons, dance)	803	245 (30.5%)
Open gyms / Drop-in recreation programs	805	239 (29.7%)
Non-sport adult recreation activities (e.g. cards, games, social opportunities)	801	217 (27.1%)
Holiday/Special Events	792	206 (26.0%)
Sports instruction (e.g. golf or tennis lessons)	802	202 (25.2%)
Adult recreational sports (e.g. soccer, basketball, tennis, softball, hockey golf)	799	194 (24.3%)
Out-of-school activities for teens	799	180 (22.5%)
Adapted recreation programs for people with disabilities	787	161 (20.5%)
Outdoor adventure activities (e.g. rock climbing, high ropes courses)	805	155 (19.3%)
After-school programs for elementary and middle school children	804	153 (19.0%)
Bus trips (e.g. casino trips, Red Sox games)	798	142 (17.8%)
Summer day camps for children and youth	804	128 (15.9%)
Youth recreational sports (e.g. soccer, baseball/softball, hockey lacrosse)	804	128 (15.9%)
Cycling events/activities (e.g. road races, BMX)	803	125 (15.6%)
Running events/activities (e.g. 5 or 10K race)	803	113 (14.1%)
Pre-kindergarten activities	799	98 (12.3%)

More than half of the respondents to this questionnaire agreed or strongly agreed that the town should partner with other organizations to provide services in the community. A majority of respondents agreed that they would be willing to pay a fee to participate in recreation programs.

Table 12: Funding for Recreation Programs and Facilities

Variable	Overall n	Mean Score	N (%) Reporting: Agree OR Strongly Agree
I believe that it's a good idea for the Town of Moultonborough to partner with other organizations and agencies to deliver park and recreation services.	812	3.58	516 (63.5%)
I would be willing to pay a fee to participate in recreation programs and activities in Moultonborough.	811	3.18	434 (53.5%)
I would be willing to pay a fee for the use of certain recreation facilities in Moultonborough.	812	2.96	367 (45.2%)
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain park and recreation facilities in Moultonborough.	814	2.92	392 (48.2%)
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to pay to run recreation programs and activities in Moultonborough.	813	2.85	357 (43.9%)

Similar to the data from the Public Input Session, people with children were significantly more likely to report visiting other communities to meet their recreational needs, and were more likely to report needing indoor recreation facility space in Moultonborough. People with children were significantly more likely to report that town-supported recreation facilities and programs were important to them than those without children living at home. Respondents with children living in their homes were more likely to support using property taxes to build or maintain park and recreation facilities and programs in Moultonborough. People with children were also more willing to pay a fee to use recreation facilities and programs in Moultonborough than were people without children (see Tables 13 and 14).

Table 13: Differences in Importance and Availability of Recreation Facilities Between Respondents With and Without Children Living at Home

Importance and availability of Facilities	Overall %	Respondents with Children Living at Home	Respondents with No Children Living at Home
Indoor Weight	34.7%	57%	28%
Room/Fitness Center			
Teen/Youth Center	26.2%	55%	17%
Indoor Gym - Athletic	26.2%	53%	18%
Courts			
Indoor Gym –	27.1%	51%	20%
Multipurpose			
Indoor Senior Center	29.5%	36%	28%
Indoor Swimming	33.4%	47%	29%
Indoor Ice Skating	18.8%	38%	13%
Indoor Community	20.3%	32%	16%
Meeting Space			
Indoor Performing Art Center	21.8%	30%	25%

Note: % of respondents who reported that the following recreation facilities were important but unavailable or available but inadequate for themselves or their families.



Table 14: Differences in Opinions on Funding Town-Supported Recreation Between Respondents With and Without Children Living at Home

Opinions on Funding	Overall % Agree/Strongly Agree	Respondents with Children Living at Home	Respondents With No Children Living at Home
I would be willing to pay a fee for the use of certain recreation facilities in Moultonborough	45.2%	62%	41%
I would be willing to pay a fee to participate in recreation programs and activities in Moultonborough	54%	74%	48%
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain park and recreation facilities in Moultonborough	48%	68%	43%
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to run recreation programs and activities in Moultonborough	44%	61%	39%
I believe that it is a good idea for the Town of Moultonborough to partner with other organizations and agencies to deliver park and recreation services	64%	65%	63%

Note: % of respondents who reported "strongly agree" or "agree" to each statement.

The purpose of highlighting differences where they existed between respondents with children living at home and those without is to show where the pockets of need might exist for the development of new parks and recreation programs and facilities in Moultonborough. Residents with children living at home were the most likely group to report that such development was important to them and their families. However, it was noted that significant majorities (approximately two-thirds or more) reported that new recreation facility and program development in Moultonborough was not an important need, and there were sizable percentages of respondents with children (43-49%) who did not feel that new indoor recreation facility development was an important need.

It should also be noted that while the response rate on this survey was very strong and comparable to other town-sponsored population surveys, the survey presents a snap-shot of public opinion, and the generalizability of the findings across the entire population of Moultonborough should be taken with some caution. Every effort was made to increase survey participation, including post-card invitations mailed to the home, voice-mail reminders, and providing the option of both online and paper-based survey options. However, the demographics of the survey showed that the average survey respondent was at least 10 years older than the town's overall median age (62 years vs. 50.5 years). Thus, survey results could possibly have underrepresented the recreation needs of younger residents.

Recommendations

Based on the activities associated with this project, including background research and observations, stakeholder focus groups, the public input session, and the resident household survey, the following recommendations are offered for consideration by the Town of Moultonborough:

1. Extend partnerships between the Town and the MSD for school facility use, particularly in the afterschool and in the summer.

- ✓ The town and school district appear to have a good working relationship and have been willing to work together in the past. The idea that the two groups are not working together effectively does not appear to be accurate based on the activities associated with this study.
- ✓ We recommend that the town should continue to work together closely with the school to secure indoor gym space for existing youth and adult sports programs. We understand that space is at a premium during basketball season and it is unlikely that new space will be available for town recreation use.
- ✓ The town should continue to work closely with the school to monitor student enrollment trends and the impacts this could have on school programs and scheduling. If school enrollment continues to decline, it is reasonable that school programs could be consolidated or dropped freeing up more space for recreation use. However, it is difficult to plan for something that may or may not happen, and this does not help to provide solutions in the near-term (i.e. within the next 10 years). Predicting school enrollments in the future is a difficult and often inaccurate endeavor, as Moultonborough has experienced both increases and declines in school enrollment since the 1990s. Decisions on consolidation or elimination of school programs based on declining enrollments, if they were to be made, are likely to happen in the long-term, and will do little to solve near-term capacity issues for recreation programs.
- ✓ The town needs additional activity space afterschool for its drop-in and CATCH programs. At minimum, the town needs classroom space, cafeteria, and multipurpose/physical activity and/or gym space on a daily basis to make this a viable afterschool program option for Moultonborough students. Without access to space that can be programmed in educational, physically active, and fun ways, children will become bored, and the program will experience attrition. There appears to be few afterschool program options in Moultonborough, and these programs fill a need for Moultonborough residents with children in the schools − particularly those who do not have access to other programs. Afterschool programs can be beneficial to the school as well, as afterschool programs, when they are aligned with the academic mission of the school, can be powerful learning and developmental contexts for young people. We believe that enhancing the opportunities available to students in the afterschool programs is a natural area for continued town-school partnership.
- ✓ The town should have access to the school for 6-8 weeks for summer day camp programming. This should include access to some classrooms, cafeteria, music room, auditorium, and gym space. Right now the town has no viable indoor activity space for summer camp programs. This impacts the ability of the Recreation Department to program

a full-day summer camp option, limiting program attendance for working families who need full-day summer programming options. This also creates scheduling challenges for parents on inclement weather days. Multiple parents reported in the focus groups that they would be interested in a full-day summer camp program located in Moultonborough that would include indoor options. We do understand that this will create scheduling issues with cleaning and gym floor refinishing – however, a willingness to work together can make this work. For example, it should not take more than 3 weeks at the maximum to refinish gym floors, and cleaning can be staggered throughout the summer so that space is available for programming. A good model for this arrangement could be Belmont, NH, where the school provides the town with building access for a 6-week summer program. We believe that the ideal would be 8 weeks, as that would be the best for working families. In turn, the Recreation Department should be responsible for programming and using all of the indoor space that is available to them.

✓ We recommend that the town and school develop a formal Joint Use Agreement for shared facility use, including documenting responsibilities, duties, and obligations for both parties.

2. Explore partnership opportunities for indoor recreation facility use with local communities and organizations.

- ✓ We believe that the possibility for partnerships with local communities could extend the indoor recreation facility capacity for Moultonborough residents in the near-term. For example there was some discussion in one of the focus groups about possibly looking at partnering with Sandwich to use available school space there for basketball practices. Apparently this is happening now on an ad hoc basis, but this could be something that should be explored on a more permanent basis in the future. Another possibility that was raised during focus groups was to partner with Meredith to use their indoor recreation facility on Sundays when the facility is closed. While there is understandable opposition to scheduling town recreation activities on Sundays, and transportation to and from Meredith could be a significant barrier for some residents particularly in poor weather, this could be a way of extending indoor recreation capacity in the near-term. Local communities particularly Sandwich expressed interest in discussions related to shared indoor recreation facility development.
- ✓ There was some discussion about the possibility of partnering with Camp Tecumseh for use of their gymnasium space. Right now, this option is not viable, as the facility is not heated nor insulated and cannot be used in the winter. We think that it is reasonable for the town to explore the possibility of working with Camp Tecumseh to see if they would be amenable to a partnership that would allow use of their facility in the winter in exchange for winterizing it, and whether this would be a viable near-term option. One of the focus group participants suggested that this could be done for approximately \$80,000, however it is unknown whether this is an accurate number. There are notable concerns with using the Tecumseh facility however, even if it were to be winterized. For example, there was reasonable concern about transportation, parking, and facility access at Camp Tecumseh for town activities, staff travel time to and from the facility for program supervision is inefficient, and equipment storage and facility set-up and clean-up is much more difficult to accomplish at off-site facilities that the town does not manage full-time. Finally, the town

needs to tread carefully when in public-private partnerships. Clear policies, guidelines and lease agreements would need to be established and executed between the town and private partners to ensure that the needs of both groups are adequately met.

- 3. Provide sufficient financial resources for on-going operations and maintenance of existing recreation facilities, including outdoor athletic fields, town beaches, boat launches, and playground facilities.
 - ✓ Public input activities consistently revealed that maintaining existing facilities was an important priority for Moultonborough. There are some maintenance needs at the Recreation Complex on Playground drive, including maintenance on the outdoor hockey rink, and renovations needed to the baseball/softball fields so that they can be used. There is a perception that prior renovations were done "on the cheap" because of concerns about spending, and these led to athletic fields that have issues with drainage and poor subsurfaces rendering them unplayable.
 - ✓ We recommend that the town continue to explore opportunities for trail development and outdoor recreation opportunities, as these were mentioned as sources of pride and priorities for Moultonborough residents. We also recommend that the town move forward with a decision on State's Landing, as this was mentioned and discussed in focus group and interview sessions. We believe that this is prime property and could make a signature outdoor recreation area with park/picnic areas, passive green space, boat launch, and access to the water for fishing. However, it would be advisable to re-think the significant resources that would need to be put into dredging the beach area for swimming – these are resources that could be used to meet other more pressing recreation space needs. A viable approach could be to develop the outdoor/park area, keep the boat launch, create a defined entranceway, and ensure public access to the water for walking, fishing, or other non-swimming activities. This could also be prime real estate for commercial development, and the town might consider divesting from this property, while entering into an agreement with potential developers to ensure public access to the waterfront and maintaining the boat launch. Similar public-private partnerships have occurred elsewhere (see Rock Hill, SC's Riverwalk Development), and the access to recreation amenities are seen as major draws for real estate developers and new residents.
- 4. Explore options for the development and renovation of the Lion's Club building to accommodate senior adult meals and social programs/activities or divest from the property.
 - ✓ The Lion's Club needs to be better utilized to meet the needs of the town. Right now the town owns the property but gets little benefit from the facility. Working with the Lion's Club to ensure that they continue to have access to the building and grounds as long as the town owns the property makes sense. However, if the town is going to pay for, own, and maintain the property, it needs to be able to benefit from it.
 - ✓ The town needs to revisit its current lease agreement with the Lion's Club and gain control over the scheduling of the building.

- ✓ The Lion's Club building can serve the needs of the senior population in town, and be used as a site for educational, social, health, and nutritional programs, as well as be a place for basic recreation programs. The building could also continue to be used for Lion's Club activities and Scouts. However, the facility needs to be brought up to ADA standards, the bathrooms need to be renovated, the kitchen should be upgraded to better accommodate the Senior Meals program, additional/improved storage areas for recreation supplies and equipment need to be added, and room dividers and task lighting need to be used to create better atmosphere in the facility. We recommend that renovations to the Lion's Club should be done in partnership and in concert with the civic groups and organizations that currently use the facility, and in a way that would best meet town needs.
- ✓ One of the management challenges to using the facility is the requirement for the set-up and take-down of tables and chairs before and after every use of the facility. This creates a burden on town recreation staff. There are new tables on the market that may be lighter and easier to handle then than ones currently at the Lion's Club, and this can alleviate some of the issues with this. However, more systematic thinking about how the facility is used and scheduled could address many of these challenges.
- ✓ There was some disagreement among stakeholders in this study about the use of the Lion's Club building and whether it was worth renovating. Our recommendation is that if the town elects not to build a new indoor recreation/community center, then there should be some investment in the Lion's Club building so that it can be functional to meet the needs for senior and civic activity space expressed in this process. However, if the town chooses to build a new indoor recreation/community center, then the Lion's Club building becomes redundant and the town should consider divesting from the property.

5. Prepare a warrant article for the development of a new indoor recreation center and gym facility.

- ✓ Based on the observations taken from this study and consistent with past studies of this issue including the Blue Ribbon Commission on Community Services and Facilities, we believe that there is a need in Moultonborough for dedicated indoor recreation and gym space, particularly for summer camp programming, during the afternoon and evening hours, and in the winter. There is currently a lack of available gym space in town and this issue cannot be solved fully through the recommendations and mechanisms listed above. Increased partnerships with the school and local communities, maintenance of existing recreation facilities, and renovating the Lion's Club alone would improve the Recreation Department's offerings and ability to meet the recreation needs of Moultonborough residents. However, there is not enough indoor physical activity and gym space available for viable recreation programs when the needs for such spaces are most prevalent.
- ✓ We recognize the needs that are present for additional gym space. However, it is an open question whether the will of the town is in favor of funding and building a new indoor recreation center in Moultonborough. There is strong and principled opposition

among town residents on the question of a new indoor recreation facility, and the voices of these residents were heard the most during the public input portions of this project. While every effort was made to engage all residents in some facet of this process – focus groups, public input meeting, community survey, and various public meetings on the project - the majority position that was heard during this process was against building a new facility.

- ✓ There is a clearly defined group of Moultonborough residents who believe that building a new indoor recreation facility should be a priority for the town for a variety of reasons alleviating the scheduling pressure for gym space; creating more family-friendly program options; meeting the needs of seniors, children, and working families; increasing the spaces that are available for social and health-promoting activities; and enhancing the sense of community. Recreation facilities and amenities are potential assets for towns, and it was suggested repeatedly by project proponents that they moved to Moultonborough because this facility was being planned and discussed. There has been a drop in the population particularly of school-aged children in Moultonborough and there has been some concern about this. However if the needs of residents with children are not met, there is a chance that Moultonborough will not be a community that will attract or retain young families in the future.
- ✓ This process was meant to inform, but not decide, the question of whether the town should move forward on building a new indoor facility. That question must be settled through the warrant process. Our recommendation is that the current needs of the town can be resolved through building a modest indoor recreation facility consisting of gym space, indoor walking area, recreation office, multipurpose room, bathroom facilities and storage. This recommendation is consistent with past planning studies in Moultonborough. We believe that for a new facility to be politically viable, it needs to be modest in scope, be designed and built with little or no impact on current tax rates, and be done in partnership with surrounding communities and organizations. We agree with the BRC that the best location for such a facility would be near school property the Adele Taylor property fits this description.
- ✓ We recommend that any new facility be designed in phases so that it can meet future needs as they arise. For example, a fully built out facility could include fitness space, dance studios, locker rooms, and an indoor pool if these are needed in the future.
- ✓ It is reasonable to assume that use of a new indoor recreation center would be similar to Meredith, with peak use times occurring between 3-8 p.m. during the week, and all day on Saturdays, particularly during the winter months. There will most likely be underutilized times in the facility during the morning and afternoon hours and during the summer during good weather. However, full day summer camp programs can alleviate the summer downtime, and senior activities and programs offered during the week in the time before 3:00pm can alleviate some of that slack as well.
- ✓ We believe that the initial phase of a new building would likely be in the \$6 million range, consistent with previous Moultonborough planning studies on this issue. Operations and Maintenance (OM) costs will likely be in the range of 2-4% of capital costs per

Federal planning guidelines. This likely puts OM costs for a new facility in the \$150,000 - \$180,000 per year range. This range is similar to operations costs reported by Meredith during the benchmarking phase of this process. These costs could be recouped and offset through partnership agreements with surrounding towns for use of the facility, facility rentals to outside and civic groups, and possible public-private partnership ventures.

✓ Timing is everything in public financing of new facilities. The best time frame to build would be in 2018 as existing municipal debt is coming off the books and could be rolled into this new project. One disadvantage is that there is not enough existing public debt coming available to leverage bonds to fund the entire project. The town would need to find additional money to make payments on the bond. This could come from existing debt payments that are coming off the books; reallocating funds in the existing budget; divesting from town-owned property that has commercial value where the town would benefit from the sale of the property, including additions to the property tax base and developer impact fees; fees and charges for use of the building, and/or increases in property tax rates.

Appendix A: Benchmark Survey Questions

- 1. What is your total full-time population?
- 2. What is your total seasonal population?
- 3. What is your total annual participation in town recreation programs and services?
- 4. Approximately what percentage of your recreation participants are from: full time residents, seasonal residents, non-residents?
- 5. What was your total general fund (tax) allocation for recreation for the last budget year?
- 6. Does the recreation general fund allocation include parks/outdoor recreation maintenance?
- 7. If you have park and outdoor recreation maintenance as part of your department, what is your total parks/outdoor recreation maintenance budget?
- 8. What was your total amount of non-tax revenue (i.e. revolving fund) generated in the last budget year?
- 9. What was the total amount of non-tax revenue (e.g. revolving fund, enterprise fund) generated by your Department in the last budget year?
- 10. What were your total expenditures from non-tax revenue in the last budget year?
- 11. What was your total municipal/town budget (general fund only) for the last budget year?
- 12. Do you have a Recreation Commission or advisory board?
- 13. What is your total number of full-time equivalents (FTE's)?
- 14. Approximately how many volunteers do you use annually?
- 15. Do you have a dedicated indoor recreation facility that you operate and use primarily for community recreation activities?
- 16. What year did your facility open?
- 17. What was the total capital cost to build the facility?
- 18. Approximately how many square feet is the facility?
- 19. What features or amenities does the facility have (basketball or volleyball courts, multipurpose rooms, meeting space, offices, locker rooms, fitness/weight rooms, dance/gymnastics studios, kitchen or concessions, racquetball/squash courts, other)?
- 20. Do you partner or share space in the facility with other agencies or organizations? If so with whom?
- 21. What are your approximate annual operating expenses for the indoor recreation facility?
- 22. What are your approximate annual operating revenues generated by the facility (memberships, rentals, classes, programs)?
- 23. In what other ways do you meet your community's needs for indoor recreation space?

- 24. Does the recreation department provide programs, facilities and services specifically for the senior population?
- 25. What programs, facilities and services do you provide specifically to meet the needs of your seniors population?
- 26. What other town departments and/or private organizations provide programs, facilities and services to meet the recreation and social needs of the senior population?

Appendix B: Gilford Parks and Recreation Commission By-Laws

These by-laws are adopted to enhance the efficient operation of Gilford's recreational facilities, activities, and programs, as well as providing guidelines for Commissioners and Parks and Recreation Department staff.

These rules and regulations may be altered, amended, or repealed at any regular Commission meeting by majority vote of the Commissioners. Any by-law that conflicts with NH Revised Statutes Annotated or with the Town of Gilford's Administrative Code at present or in the future, shall be declared void.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen to serve a 3-year term (or the unexpired portion of a 3-year term, in the case of resignation/removal).

The Commission shall serve as and advisory board to the Board of Selectmen. The Commission shall recommend policies of operation and maintenance of all public parks and recreation in the Town, in accordance with the laws governing public recreation in the State of New Hampshire. While meeting these purposes, the Commission shall take into consideration the recommendations of and work closely with the Parks and Recreation Director. The Commission shall act as a sounding board for the Parks and Recreation Director. It shall advise the Director as a group, rather than as individuals. Commissioners shall deal officially with the Parks and Recreation staff only through the Director.

MEETINGS

The Commission shall meet regularly on the first Monday of each calendar month, unless such schedule is amended by vote of the Commission.

Upon three consecutive unexcused absences by a Commissioner of a regular Commission, except in cases of sickness or emergency, the Commission may recommend the removal of said Commissioner to the Board of Selectmen.

AGENDA

The Director shall produce a written agenda for each regular Commission meeting. Commissioners with items for the agenda shall submit them to the Director prior to the day of the meeting. The Director shall add items that may arise in the interim period before the meeting.

MINUTES

It shall be the responsibility of the Commission Secretary to take the minutes of each Commission meeting and record all votes taken by the Commission. The minutes shall be available for public access within 144 hours (6 days) after the close of the meeting. Minutes shall be approved by vote of the Commission.

In the absence of the Secretary, the Chairman shall appoint an Acting Secretary to record minutes.

OFFICERS

Commissioners shall elect officers by majority vote, on an annual basis. Officers elected shall include Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Elections shall be held at the first Commission meeting after the official appointments are made by the Board of Selectmen (approximately mid – late March).

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

<u>Chairman</u>: The Chairman shall preside at all Commission meetings; sign such official papers as may be required; prescribe voting and other procedures; appoint committees; and call special meetings, when necessary.

<u>Vice-Chairman</u>: The Vice-Chairman shall take over the duties of the Chairman in the event of his/her absence.

<u>Secretary:</u> The Secretary shall be responsible for recording meeting minutes and drafting any other correspondences on behalf of the Commission, as requested by the Commission Chair.

BUDGET

The Commission shall be responsible for reviewing and/or assisting with the annual budget proposed by the Director, prior to submission to the Board of Selectmen and the Municipal Budget Committee.

Commissioners shall review the state of all programs, activities, and facilities.

PROGRAMS

All programs will be evaluated periodically by the Commission to determine need and effectiveness. New programs shall be reviewed and approved by the Commission. All programs are operated exclusively under the direction of the Director. The Commission shall have a focus on volunteerism, in particular assisting with special events as needed.

Revised: May 2012

Appendix C: Household Survey Invitation Postcard

MOULTONBOROUGH RECREATION SURVEY

DEAR RESIDENT AND TAXPAYER:

WE NEED YOUR INPUT TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR RECREATION PROGRAMMING AND FACILITIES WITH THE PRIORITY YOU PLACE ON MEETING THOSE NEEDS. THIS INCLUDES ESTABLISHING THE NEED FOR AND THE FEASIBILITY OF CONSTRUCTING AND OPERATING A POSSIBLE GYM FACILITY. PLEASE COMPLETE AN ON-LINE SURVEY AT: www.moultonboroughnh.gov BY CLICKING ON THE YELLOW BANNER BELOW THE PICTURE WHICH SAYS:

UNH RECREATION STUDY

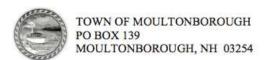
If you are unable to finish this survey at one sitting, you may stop at any time during the survey and return at a later time. Upon your return, the survey will re-open where you left off and you need only click the "Restart" button at the top of the page.

RESPONSES ARE ANONYMOUS ** ONE RESPONSE ALLOWED PER COMPUTER

OR STOP BY THE LIBRARY OR TOWN HALL TO PICK UP A SURVEY. COMPLETED SURVEYS MAY BE DROPPED OFF IN THE LIBRARY OR TOWN HALL.

OR CALL 603-476-2347 TO HAVE ONE MAILED TO YOU WITH A STAMPED RETURN ENVELOPE.

SURVEYS MUST BE RETURNED BY OCTOBER 27TH.





001*001******************SCH 5-DIGIT 03246

Appendix D: Household Survey Public Notice

Moultonborough Needs You To Take the On-Line Recreation Survey



At www.moultonboroughnh.gov by clicking on the yellow box which reads UNH Recreation Study located just below the home page picture.

The Town of Moultonborough has engaged a team of professors and graduate students from the UNH Department of Recreation Management and Policy to undertake a study of what the community sees as its recreation programming needs, the priority it places on those and how the community might best address those priorities. We need you to take our on-line survey at the address above.

If you prefer paper surveys:

- Pick a copy of the survey at Town Hall or the Public Library and drop it off at the reception desk once completed.
- Call 1.603.476.2347 to request a survey be mailed to you along with a return pre-stamped envelope.

All surveys need to be turned in by October 27, 2014. One response is allowed per computer.

The survey is one part of a multi-prong public participation process which also includes the interview of stakeholders in focus groups and a Town-Wide forum to be held on October 22nd starting at 5:30 p.m. More information on how to participate in those meetings will be forthcoming in the upcoming weeks in local media and the Town's web site.

For more information on this process go to the Town's web site, click on Town Committees and click on BRC/Gym Facility Needs & Feasibility Study by UNH. Interested parties may also send comments or questions which go beyond the scope of the survey to Mr. Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator, by mail (Offices of the SelectBoard, 6 Holland Street, PO Box 139, Moultonborough, NH 03254) by email (cterenzini@moultonboroughnh.gov), by fax (603.476.5835) or by hand to the Town's offices.

Published: Meredith News 10/09/14 and 10/16, 2014

Posted: Web; Town & SAU BBs (8), Post Office, Wellness Center, Lions Club

Appendix E: Household Survey (sent in both online and paper form)

TOWN OF MOULTONBOROUGH PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The following information is being gathered to assess the recreation interests, needs, and priorities of households in the Town of Moultonborough. As a town resident or taxpayer, your responses to the following questions are important to us. The information that you provide will assist in establishing priorities and a strategic direction for recreation provision in Moultonborough. Please read each question carefully before responding, and please answer each question to the best of your ability. You can be assured that all individual responses will be kept confidential. Thank you for your thoughtful responses to the following questions.

I. USE OF MOULTONBOROUGH RECREATION FACILITIES & PROPERTIES

Which of the following Moultonborough facilities and properties do you or other members of your household use or attend events in for recreation purposes? Do you use these facilities: *Frequently* (more than 20 times/year), *Regularly* (10-20 times/year), *Occasionally* (1 to 9 times/year), or *Never*? If you never use the facility, are you aware that it exists?

	Frequently	Regularly	Occasionally	Never	Unaware of
Recreation Facility/Property	Use	Use	Use	Use	Facility
Community Center / Recreation					
Building					
Lion's Club Building					
Athletic Facilities at Playground					
Drive (playing fields and courts)					
Ice Rink at Playground Drive					
Playground at Playground Drive					
Moultonborough Academy Gym					
Moultonborough Academy					
Auditorium					
Moultonborough Academy					
Athletic Fields					
Moultonborough Academy Track					
Sutherland Park					
States Landing Beach					
States Landing Boat Launch					
Lee's Mills Boat Launch					
Long Island Beach					
Long Island Boat Launch					
The Point at Long Island					
Moultonborough Pathway					
Central School Gymnasium					
Central School Athletic Field					
Central School Multi-Purpose					
Room					
Central School Playground					

Which of the following out-of-town recreation facilities do you use, and how frequently do you use them?

	Frequently	Regularly	Occasionally	Never	Unaware of
Recreation Facility/Property	Use	Use	Use	Use	Facility
Meredith Community Center					
Wolfeboro Ice Rink					
Center Harbor Beach on Lake					
Winnipesaukee					
Laconia Athletic and Swim Club					

What other out-of-town municipal (town-supported) recreation facilities do you use, if any?

$\underbrace{\text{II. EVALUATION OF QUALITY OF MOULTONBOROUGH RECREATION FACILITIES \& PROPERTIES}$

How would you rate the overall quality of the recreation facilities and properties available in Moultonborough? Please check the appropriate box. If you do not use the facility, please indicate.

Recreation Facility/Property	Superior	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Poor	Don't Use/Unable to Judge
Community Center / Recreation						
Building						
Lion's Club Building						
Athletic Facilities at Playground						
Drive (playing fields and courts)						
Ice Rink at Playground Drive						
Playground at Playground Drive						
Moultonborough Academy Gym						
Moultonborough Academy Auditorium						
Moultonborough Academy Athletic Fields						
Moultonborough Academy Track						
Sutherland Park						
States Landing Beach						
States Landing Boat Launch						
Lee's Mills Boat Launch						
Long Island Beach						
Long Island Boat Launch						
The Point at Long Island						
Moultonborough Pathway						
Central School Gymnasium						
Central School Athletic Field						
Central School Multi-Purpose Room						
Central School Playground						

III. PARTICIPATION CONSTRAINTS

Below is a list of reasons why you or members of your household may not use the recreation facilities or properties in Moultonborough. If you do not use the recreation facilities or properties available in Moultonborough, or if you use them less than you would like to, indicate why by rating the following:

Reason	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree/Disagre e	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Lack of time because of other leisure activities					
Not aware of available facilities					
Lack of transportation					
Facilities are not safe					
No one to participate with					
Lack of time because of work or other					
obligations					
Facilities are too crowded					
Lack of money/too expensive					
Facilities needed are not available					
Lack of parking availability/convenience					
Lack of childcare					
Disability/accessibility issues					
Inappropriate social environment					
Not interested in the available recreation opportunities					
Facilities are not adequate to meet my/my family's needs					
Better recreation opportunities available elsewhere					

If there are additional reasons why you or members of your household may not use the recreation facilities or properties in Moultonborough, please indicate them below:

IV. EVALUATION OF RECREATION FACILITIES/AMENITIES

Below is a list of recreation facilities/amenities that might be of interest to you. Please rate each of the following recreation facilities/amenities based on their level of importance, their availability to you, and how well they meet you and/or your family's recreation needs. If something is not important to you or your family, or you are not interested, please check the box in the last column.

Recreation Facility/Amenity	This is important, available, and what we have meets my	This is important and available, but what we have is not adequate for my needs.	This is important, but is unavailable to me.	This is not important and/or I'm not interested.
D '1. / 1 1 1 1	needs.			
Built/developed parks	U		U	U
Non-motorized trails or greenways				
Bike lanes/paths				
Motorized recreational trails				
Undesignated green space for passive or				
active drop-in recreation				
Indoor gym or athletic courts (e.g.				
basketball/volleyball courts)				
Indoor multipurpose gyms (e.g. dance,				

Please list other recreation facilities/amenities that you or your household might be interested in:

V. EVALUATION OF RECREATION PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

Below is a list of recreation programs or activities that might be of interest to you. Please rate the following recreation programs and activities based on their importance, availability, and how well they meet you and/or your family's recreation needs. If something is not important to you or your family, or you are not interested, please check the box in the last column.

	This is	This is important	This is	This is not
	important,	and available, but	important,	important
Recreation Programs	available,	what we have is	but is	and/or I'm not
	and what we	not adequate for	unavailable	interested.
	have meets	my needs.	to me.	
	my needs.	-		
Arts and cultural programs (e.g.				
performing arts, art lessons, dance)				
Musical concerts and performances				
Holiday/Special Events				
Adapted recreation programs for people				
with disabilities				
Pre-kindergarten activities				
Out-of-school activities for teens				

Please list other recreation programs or activities that you or your family believe are important:

VI. Importance of Recreation Facilities, Programs, and Services

In general, how important are the following recreation facilities, programs and services to you as a resident or taxpayer of Moultonborough?

Reason	Very Importa nt	Importa nt	Neutral/ Neither	Unimporta nt	Very Unimporta nt
Outdoor athletic fields/sports					
complexes					
Recreation programs and services					
Trails and greenways					
Indoor recreation facilities					
Parks and open space					

VII. Satisfaction with Recreation Facilities, Programs, and Services

In general, how satisfied are the following recreation facilities, programs and services to you as a resident or taxpayer of Moultonborough?

	Very	Satisfied	Neutral/	Unsatisfie	Very
Reason	Satisfied		Neither	d	Unsatisfied
Outdoor athletic fields/sports					
complexes					
Recreation programs and services					
Trails and greenways					
Indoor recreation facilities					
Parks and open space					

VIII. Prioritization of Recreation Facilities, Programs or Services

Imagine that you have \$100 to give to the Town of Moultonborough that could be used for the development or
enhancement of recreation facilities or programs. Where would you designate it to go?
O Outdoor athletics fields/sports complexes
O Recreation programs and services
O Trails and greenways
O Indoor recreation facilities

O Other:

O None of the above - I wouldn't spend the \$100 on any recreation facilities/programs

Please respond by agreeing or disagreeing with the following statements:

O Parks and open space

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I would be willing to pay a fee for the use of certain recreation <i>facilities</i> in Moultonborough.					
I would be willing to pay a fee to participate in recreation <i>programs and activities</i> in Moultonborough.					
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to offset the costs to build and maintain park and recreation <i>facilities</i> in Moultonborough.					
I believe that some portion of a resident's property tax should be used to pay to run recreation <i>programs and activities</i> in Moultonborough.					
I believe that it's a good idea for the Town of Moultonborough to partner with other organizations and agencies to deliver park and recreation services.					

	Do you currently volunteer for the Town of Moultonborough's recreation department in any capacity (e.g. as a coach, scorekeeper, program leader, advisory board member)?
	O Yes
	O No
>	If YES – how many months out of the year do you engage in volunteer activities for the recreation department?
>	Approximately how many hours do you spend in a typical week volunteering for the recreation department?
Ple hel Ple	ease answer the following questions about you and your household. These questions are important because they us understand whether a broad range of voices from different populations are represented in this survey. Ease be assured that all of your responses are confidential and are not linked in any way to information that could entify you personally.
>	Are you a resident or taxpayer of Moultonborough? (check one) O Yes O No
	If NO:
	 How frequently do you visit Moultonborough? (check one) Every Day Every Week (approximately how many days in the week)? days Every Month (approximately how many days in the month)? days Every Year (approximately how many days in the year)? days
	Do you own or rent your home: (check one) O Own O Rent O Other
	Is your Moultonborough home your: (check one) O Primary Residence O Second or Seasonal Home
>	How many <i>months per year</i> do you live at this residence? number of months
	How many <i>years</i> have you resided in Moultonborough? number of years
	Are you or another adult household member: (check all those that apply) O Employed Full-time O Employed Part-Time O Retired

	O Not Reured and Not Currently Employed
>	Are you (check one) : O Male O Female
>	In what year were you born?
>	Do you have a child or children 5 years old or younger living in your home? (check one) O Yes O No
>	Do you have a child or children between the ages of 6-12 living in your home? (check one) O Yes O No
>	Do you have a child or children between the ages of 13-18 living in your home? (check one) O Yes O No
>	Do you have a grandchild or grandchildren living in Moultonborough? O Yes What are their ages? O No

Thank you for your time in completing this survey! Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

Appendix F: Invitation for Public Input Meeting

Moultonborough Needs You

Participate in a Focus Group On Recreation Needs &

Attend the Town-Wide Meeting

Signups for any interested taxpayers and residents, recreation program participants of all ages, and seniors for Focus Groups to be interviewed by the team from the UNH Department of Recreation Management and Policy are now being taken.

Focus Groups dates and times are:

October 20th at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:45 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. October 22nd at 12:15 p.m. and 1:30 p.m., (Additional slots will be made available on those days if needed)

Sign up by email to mbengtson@moultonboroughnh.gov, calling the Recreation Department at 1.603.476.8868 or stopping by their offices at 10 Holland Street during normal business hours. Please indicate your preferred date and time and understand an alternate time may need to be offered to you if a group has filled up its available slots.

The Town –Wide Meeting is: October 22nd from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Moultonborough Academy Cafeteria Food will be served.

Interested parties may also send comments or questions to Mr. Carter Terenzini, Town Administrator, by mail (Offices of the SelectBoard, 6 Holland Street, PO Box 139, Moultonborough, NH 03254) by email (cterenzini@moultonboroughnh.gov), by fax (603.476.5835) or by hand to the Town's offices.

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